

UPDATE: Snohomish Tributary Streams Need Your Help



Clean Streams Running Through Watersheds Are Becoming Polluted

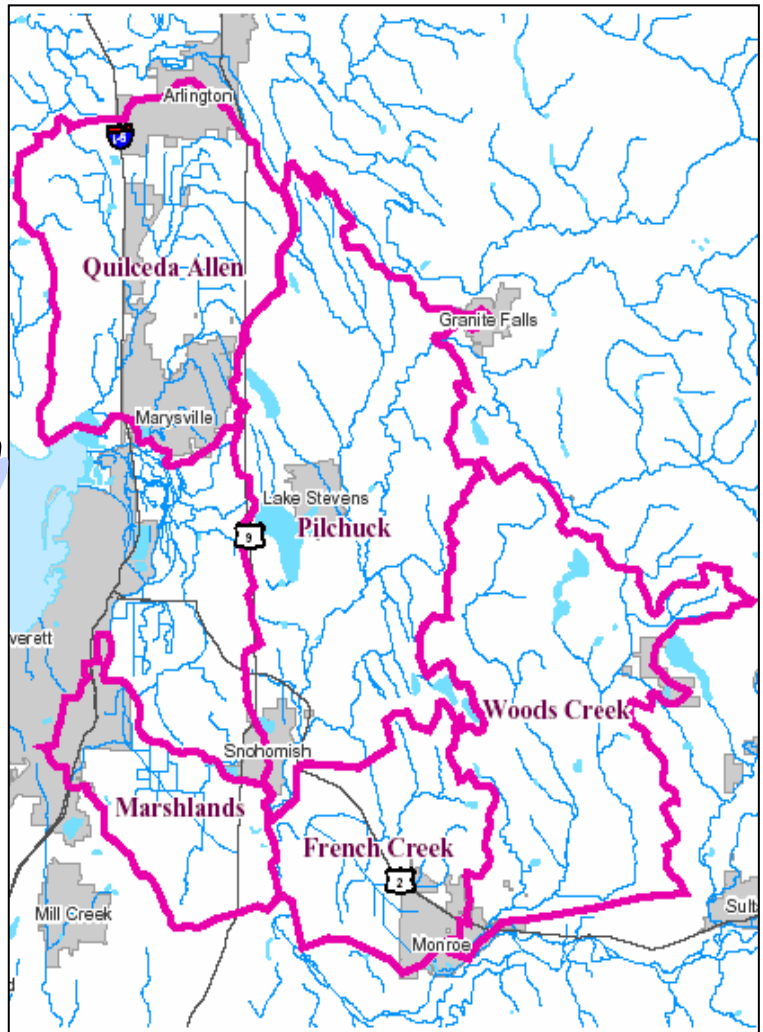
Did you know?

- Many of the streams in the lower Snohomish Watershed do not meet state standards for swimming and wading because there is too much bacteria in the water.
- The federal government has determined that Chinook salmon are threatened in many of these areas, and populations of Silver salmon face continuing pressure from urban development.



The Washington State Ecology Department is seeking comments about how to clean up these polluted waters.

We are developing a water cleanup "Action Plan" that is aimed at improving water quality and restoring Snohomish tributary streams. It describes pollution in your area and provides solutions to the problem. To find out what local government and others are proposing to improve and protect water quality, get a copy of the *Lower Snohomish Tributaries Fecal Coliform Bacteria Total Maximum Daily Load Detailed Implementation Plan Draft (Action Plan)*.



Streams in which fecal coliform bacteria and other pollutants are problems include Allen, French Creek, Quilceda, and Woods; as well as the Pilchuck River and the Marshlands watersheds.

**Please consider giving us your comments on the *Action Plan*.
*Share your ideas with others!***

Why are these waters polluted?

Pollution in the Snohomish tributary streams comes from thousands of sources that may not have clearly-identifiable emission points; this category of pollution is called “non-point” pollution. These non-point sources can contribute a variety of pollutants that may come from failing septic systems, livestock and pet wastes, at-home car washing, lawn and garden care, leaky machinery, and other daily activities. Some of these non-point sources create bacterial pollution.

Wildlife are not considered to be polluters but can also contribute bacteria. When such natural sources combine with non-point pollution, the result can cause the kind of problems found in many Snohomish tributary streams.



What can you do to improve these waters?

The *Action Plan* has information about current and future activities to clean up local waters. There are many things residents can do now to reduce pollution reaching water bodies and to improve water quality. Some ways that you can help include:

- Being responsible for proper septic tank maintenance or repair;
- Washing cars on lawns;
- Using landscaping methods that eliminate or use less fertilizers and pesticides;
- Planting trees and performing other activities that help local streams;
- Keeping pet and other animal wastes out of your local streams;
- Getting involved in your local government’s programs.

Federal law requires clean up of polluted waters

Ecology’s *Action Plan* is part of the federal process for determining how much pollutant a waterbody can accept before standards for water quality are exceeded (this process is also called the Total Maximum Daily Load, or TMDL, process). The *Action Plan* identifies:

- The fecal coliform problems and their causes in the watershed.
- Actions that are needed, planned, or already underway to reduce pollution.

How else can you be involved?

Citizen involvement in deciding what needs to be done is essential to making your local water body a safe place for people and fish. You can be involved by participating in the following future watershed activities (see website for more contact information):

- Join local volunteers with the Stilly Snohomish Task Force to improve water quality by helping with stream restoration activities.
- If you own a farm (or just a horse or two!), contact the Snohomish Conservation District to have a *FREE* farm plan prepared!
- If you live outside of a city: Be a *Salmon Watcher* or *Watershed Keeper*, or get involved in other individual or group activities to improve local waters; these are coordinated by Snohomish County staff.
- *Share your ideas with others.* Let local elected officials know your wishes to improve water quality and fish habitat and your ideas for clean local streams.

Please comment on Ecology's draft water cleanup *Action Plan*.

You may comment on the *Action Plan* in writing from April 21 through May 16, 2003. You can obtain a copy of the draft plan three ways:

- 1) at Ecology's Northwest Regional Office in Bellevue (see address in box below);
- 2) on the Internet: <http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/wq/tmdl/watershed/index.html#nwro>;
- 3) at these Washington libraries:

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|-------------------------|--|-----------------------|
| ♦ <u>Arlington</u> : | 135 North Washington Avenue, Arlington, 98223; | Phone: (360) 435-3033 |
| ♦ <u>Lake Stevens</u> : | 1804 Main Street, Lake Stevens, 98258; | Phone: (425) 334-1900 |
| ♦ <u>Marysville</u> : | 6120 Grove Street, Marysville, 98270; | Phone: (360) 658-5000 |
| ♦ <u>Monroe</u> : | 1070 Village Way, Monroe, 98272; | Phone: (360) 794-7851 |
| ♦ <u>Snohomish</u> : | 105 Cedar Street, Snohomish, 98290; | Phone: (360) 568-2898 |

Ecology will continue working with local governments and others listed in the Action Plan to carry it out and get waters clean again!

Please send written comments to:

Ralph Svrjcek, Water Cleanup Lead
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3190 160th Avenue SE, Bellevue, WA 98008-5452,
e-mail rsvr461@ecy.wa.gov.
Phone: 425-649-7165.

To obtain this brochure or the *Action Plan* in alternative formats or for other special accommodations, please call at (425) 649-7165 or (TTY) at 711 or 1-800-833-6388.